Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 06:00 on Saturday 09 Dec 2023 until 23:59 on Sunday 10 Dec 2023

Forecast Issued on Saturday 09 Dec 2023 at 03:20

Confidence: High for unsettled, lowering confidence in the detail of worst of the weather.

Headline for Saturday 09 Dec 2023: Overcast with periods of rain, heavy at times with hill fog quite extensive. Summit gales developing.

Mountain weather hazards on Saturday 09 Dec 2023

Blizzards
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent snow
No Likelihood

Storm force winds
No Likelihood

Gales
Low Likelihood

Severe chill effect
Medium Likelihood

Poor visibility
Medium Likelihood

Thunderstorms
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain
Medium Likelihood

Strong sunlight
No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m					
Time					
06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain	Light rain
Precipitation probability					
70%	90%	80%	70%	80%	90%

Forecast for Saturday 09 Dec 2023

Weather: An overcast day with periods of rain frequently turning heavy.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 10% or less

Low cloud and visibility: Moderate or poor in rain, very poor within cloud with bases from 500m generally extensive with best of the limited breaks in the east.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/specialist-forecasts/mountain
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Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Saturday 09 Dec 2023

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph) Wind Direction (blowing from)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	37/43 S	46/54 SE	31/37 S	36/44 W	43/54 W	46/58 W	45/57 W
600	34/45 S	33/43 SE	26/34 S	29/39 W	33/46 W	35/49 W	36/50 W
300	12/31 S	14/36 SE	9/25 S	12/31 W	15/38 W	16/41 W	16/41 W
Valley	9/27 SE	10/30 SE	9/24 S	12/29 W	14/35 W	16/38 W	16/38 W

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	3/-4	3/-5	4/-3	3/-4	2/-6	2/-6	2/-6
600	4/-3	5/-2	6/0	5/-1	4/-3	4/-3	4/-3
300	6/2	6/3	7/4	7/4	6/2	6/2	6/2
Valley	7/4	8/5	8/6	8/6	8/5	8/4	8/5
Freezing Level*	1600m	1800m	1900m	1500m	1400m	1300m	1400m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Very difficult conditions with extensive hill fog strong to gale summit winds bringing severe wind chill at height.

Forecast for Sunday 10 Dec 2023

Weather: Best chance of drier brighter fare early and late in the day, otherwise cloudy with area of rain and summit snow crossing from the west, heaviest around mid-day.

Maximum wind: West to southwest initially mean 25mph with gusts reaching 40mph across most exposed ridges and summits, easing mean 15mph from mid-morning.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: Generally 10-20% but 60% early and late in the day.

Low cloud and visibility: Good, becoming moderate or poor in rain, very poor within cloud with bases generally extensive from 500m, but broken early and late in the day.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Zero Celsius increasing 8 Celsius for the afternoon
At 800m: Plus 2 Celsius
Freezing level: 1000m by day

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Friday 8 December 2023 Location: Helvellyn summit at 12:40 Full report: Thursday's thaw continues, again at all levels, since it was raining and plus 2 degrees C on the summit this afternoon. The thaw is especially rapid below 650m where, especially in the north of the National Park, little snow now remains. This is not the case roughly south of Dunmail Raise where extensive snow fell to valley level last week but it is now thawing rapidly. Above 650m, the snowpack at all levels is mostly soft, very wet and thawing. The snow depth increases with height to reach an extremely rough average of around 6-8cm at 900m although the actual depth encountered varies considerably from nothing at all on windswept ground (such as areas of the summit plateau) to drifts able to swallow a 60cm ice axe, although these are now exceptional. The deepest drifts can be found in sheltered spots and hollows and on predominantly north facing aspects. Very little hard snow was experienced today. More ice was encountered which was found in the same locations as the hard snow namely on popular routes where the snow has been compacted and this will, obviously, take longer to thaw. Microspikes make the going far easier here – especially when encountering occasional patches of ice 'hidden' in similar locations to wet slush. Exposed routes above the snowline require care. The ground conditions along both Striding and Swirral Edges were mixed today with bare wet rock, soft wet snow, slush and compacted ice. The one common factor was that they were all slippery. Microspikes are recommended for such routes and crampons and ice axe should be carried in case the wet snow freezes at altitude. The ground conditions on the summit plateau were also mixed with the same wet bare ground, soft wet snow, slush and compacted ice. The latter could be treacherous on Saturday given the forecasted strength of the wind as Cumbria is under a Met Office Yellow warning for wind from 9am on Saturday until midnight. Full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat and gloves), mountain boots and equipment including a torch are all essential to safely, and enjoyably, roam the fells. The high fells in places still have a considerable covering of snow and this combined with low cloud can create near or actual whiteout conditions. Therefore a map and compass combined with excellent navigational skills are also essential. Temperature: plus 2.4 C, Maximum wind speed 28.3 mph, Wind chill: minus 5.7 C Average wind speed: 23.1 mph

Issued at: 03:20 on Sat 09 Dec 2023

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